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Brzezinski Tactic on Cuba Irks Vance

For the gentlemanly Cyrus R. Vance, words like "counterproductive" and "inappropriate" are as scathing as he ever allows himself to use. Both words appear in an angry memo, which he has addressed to Zbigniew Brzezinski, the national security affairs chief.

This is the latest development in a seething, behind-the-scenes controversy that I revealed Oct. 31. I reported that Brzezinski had drafted a top-secret memorandum outlining a three-phase program to put the Soviets and Cubans in their place. It could only be described as a blueprint for reviving the Cold War.

As part of the scheme, Brzezinski ordered a questionnaire sent to all U.S. ambassadors requesting data on Cuban activities in their areas for use in a worldwide propaganda campaign.

The questionnaire, stamped *Top Secret Umbra*, was opposed by Vance. The secretary of state believes that the United States should seek detente, not confrontation, with the Soviets. Two-thirds of the ambassadors also protested the instructions, an unprecedented show of opposition.

But Brzezinski would not be dissuaded. He wouldn't even allow the Iranian crisis to interfere. Nov. 7, three days after the American hostages had been seized in Iran, the ambassadors were reminded not to miss the Nov. 15 deadline for filing their Cuban reports.

This was too much for Vance. He dashed off a sharp memo intended for Brzezinski's eyes only. "The continued U.S. diplomatic emphasis on the Cuban-Soviet relationship is counterproductive and particularly inappropriate at this time," declared the secretary of state.

"The U.S. can best secure the cooperation of Third World countries both in the long run and during this crisis," he suggested pointedly, "by recognizing that they have legitimate national concerns entirely apart from the U.S.-Soviet relationship."

The responses from the ambassadors, meanwhile, flooded into the State Department by secret cable from diplomatic posts all over the world. There was no enthusiasm in the messages. The ambassadors to anti-communist countries reported that a new propaganda campaign would be preaching to the converted. The ambassadors to nonaligned countries warned that they had to keep a low profile.

Ambassador Marilyn Johnson cabled from Togo, for example, that the tiny African nation "doesn't look at the U.S.S.R.-Cuban relationship as nefarious" and "doesn't believe the U.S. is threatened by Cuba."

She concluded tersely: "Economic and social development can keep Togo more moderate; propaganda campaigns against a Third World nation will not . . . The ante for strong anti-Soviet positions is not words, but economic and military support."

From the neighboring nation of Benin, Charge d'Affaires John Davidson reported: "It is not productive to undertake an effort to get out the facts about the extent of Cuban dependence on Soviet aid. . . . Benin has little reason for focusing on the darker side of the affiliation between Cuba and the Russians."

Brzezinski's Cold War campaign has aroused widespread revolt in the foreign policy establishment. Vance has complained privately that the Brze-

zezinski plan would "reverse 15 years of American diplomacy," sources told my reporter Ron McRae. But President Carter is going ahead with it.

Iranian Threats — Incredibly, some Iranians in the United States, far from keeping a low profile during the Tehran hostage situation, have been passing out literature urging acts of violence against Americans.

Among the terrorist suggestions are attacks with knives and razor blades on Jewish women, aimed at preventing the reproduction of Zionists.

The FBI knows who is responsible for these threats, and has them under constant surveillance. But because our laws forbid the arrest of someone who makes general threats without taking action, the police are helpless.

Meanwhile, the Senate's sergeant-at-arms has advised senators to change their personalized license plates and avoid routine routes on their way to work. And additional metal detectors are being installed at entrances to the Senate office buildings.

Under The Dome — Robert Strauss, Carter's reelection campaign chief, expects a bitter fight with Teddy Kennedy for the Democratic nomination, and he's not all that sure that the president will come out on top.

"We may not win," he told a recent meeting of party leaders. "But we're going to fight like hell."

• Susan's confusin' the U.S. Mint as well as the public. A Gainesville, Fla., resident recently ordered a mint set of the new Susan B. Anthony dollars, and received instead a mint set of quarters. The 25-cent piece is close enough in size and shape to be mistaken often for the controversial coin dollar.